

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A system to join an actuator element to a slider element comprising:

a slider element adapted to be coupled to an actuator element having a generally 'U'-shaped structure, the 'U'-shaped structure being formed by at least a first arm joined at one end to an actuator base and a second arm joined at one end to said actuator base, said first arm having a first raised portion of a first contour and said second arm having a second raised portion of a second contour generally opposing in direction and generally parallel to said first ~~surface~~ raised portion of said first contour;

said slider element having a first surface with a first recessed portion contoured to accept, for non-rotatable coupling, said first raised portion and a second surface with a second recessed portion contoured to accept, for non-rotatable coupling, said second raised portion; wherein

said first raised portion is to bond within said first recessed portion by a bonding agent; and

said second raised portion is to bond within said second recessed portion by said bonding agent.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the actuator element is a micro-actuator and the slider element is a side step slider.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the micro-actuator is a piezoelectric micro-actuator.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the bonding agent is epoxy.

5. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein the contours of said first raised portion with said first recessed portion and the contours of said second raised portion with said second recessed portion prevent rotational movement of the slider during a curing process of said epoxy.

6. (Original) A system to join an actuator element to a slider element comprising:  
a slider element adapted to be coupled to an actuator element having a generally 'U'-shaped structure, the 'U'-shaped structure being formed by at least a first arm joined at one end to an actuator base and a second arm joined at one end to said actuator base and generally parallel to said first arm;

said slider element having a first recessed planar surface forming a first step and a second recessed planar surface forming a second step generally parallel and generally opposite in direction from the first step to accept for non-rotatable coupling said actuator, the first step accepting the first arm and the second step accepting the second arm; wherein

said first arm is to bond within said first step by a bonding agent; and

said second arm is to bond within said second step by said bonding agent.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, wherein the actuator element is a micro-actuator and the slider element is a side step slider.

8. (Original) The system of claim 7, wherein the micro-actuator is a piezoelectric micro-actuator.
9. (Original) The system of claim 8, wherein the bonding agent is epoxy.
10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the first step accepts the first arm and the second step accepts the second arm to prevent rotational movement of the slider during a curing process of said epoxy.
11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein said slider has a third recessed planar surface forming a third step that is generally perpendicular to the first and second steps.
12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said slider has said third recessed planar surface forming said third step to reduce slider weight.
13. (Currently Amended) A system to join an actuator element to a slider element comprising:
  - a slider element adapted to be coupled to an actuator element having a generally 'U'-shaped structure, the 'U'-shaped structure being formed by at least a first arm joined at one end to an actuator base and a second arm joined at one end to said actuator base, said first arm having a first bonding surface and said second arm having a second bonding surface that is generally opposing in direction and generally parallel to said first bonding surface;
  - said slider element having a first bonding surface with a first recessed portion contoured

to partially butt said first arm bonding surface and to provide a partial cleft with said first arm bonding surface; wherein

said first slider bonding surface is to bond with said first arm bonding surface; and

said second slider bonding surface is to bond with said second arm bonding surface.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the actuator element is a micro-actuator and the slider element is a side step slider.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein the micro-actuator is a piezoelectric micro-actuator.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the bonding agent is epoxy.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said first slider bonding surface partially butts said first arm bonding surface, providing said partial cleft, and said second slider bonding surface partially butts said second arm bonding surface, providing said partial cleft, to prevent epoxy overflow.

18-38. (Cancelled)